[The Sandpaper](#)
Juliet Kaszas-Hoch

Long Beach Township's 12 miles of coastline lost approximately 2.2 million cubic yards of sand- worth about $30 million- in the nor'easter that hit the Island November 12 to 14, according to township Mayor Joseph Mancini.

A state disaster declaration request, which requires Gov. Jon Corzine's signature, must travel to the White House, to be signed by the president, before the municipality will know how much money in might receive to aid in repairing the beaches.

On Tuesday, Mancini, along with other Ocean County elected officials and representatives from the Fed. Emergency Management Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers and NJ Office of Emergency Management, participated in a conference call hosted by Congressman John Adler (D-3rd) to discuss efforts to help country municipalities affected by the recent storm.

As explained by Mike Moriarity, acting administrator for Region II for FEMA, President Obama's signing off on the disaster declaration would trigger the application of the President' Disaster Relief Fund, which is managed by FEMA, and disaster aid programs of other participation federal agencies.

A representative from NJOEM clarified that the funding would be 75% federal with a 25% non-federal match.

As Mancini explained last week, FEMA visited the township to assess the beach erosion.

"The bottom line," the mayor said following Tuesday's conference call, "is that FEMA won't get involved until Corzine and Obama sign the disaster declaration."

Jill Greco, chief of staff for the office of Congressman Adler, pointed out on Tuesday that Adler has also requested that Congress appropriate emergency funding for the Army Cops to use for Ocean County municipalities.

At last Friday's Long Beach Township Board of Commissioners meeting, the municipality passed a resolution declaring an emergency in the township due to the recent storm, as well as a resolution providing for the appropriation of emergency funding, in the amount of $750,000 for the damage suffered as a result of the nor'easter.

That anmount, said Mancini, 'gets us to the point where we could withstand another nor'easter until the sand gets built back up.'

As of the end of last week, 385 truckloads of sand- about 10,000 tons had been dumped on the beaches with more being dumped as this week began. On Tuesay, Mancini said 500 loads of sand had been dumped.

The township Public Works Department possesses two bulldozers, and the municipality rented

four more- "the big ones," Mancini noted- to push the sand around.

The money would allow the municipality to tend to the cliffs at the beach entrances, cover exposed pilings, flush debris from the storm sewer system in an environmentally friendly way and more.

The mayor also announced the police department is accepting accounts of damage to homes and property which it will compile for a loss assessment report for FEMA.

Homeowners can email a short paragraoh, describing the extent of the damage, along with homeowners's name, address, and whether the home or property was insured to lbtoem@longbeachtownship.com. Or send a written description to LBT PD, 6805 Long Beach Blvd., Brant Beach, NJ 08008

During the public session of Friday's meeting, a resident asked about the possibility of piggybacking beach replenishment work for the township onto Harvey Cedars project, which began recently.

At that time, Mancini said the township could not put the work out to big until January 2010. "After that we'll see how quickly we can get started."

However based on information Tuesday's conference call, the mayor believes there could be an opportunity to go out to big sooner, and therefore begin replenishment between 31st and 56th streets in Brant Beach- where all easements have been collected, as soon as the project is completed in Harvey Cedars.

"We'll be working very hard to get this accomplished."

The mayor instructs oceanfront residents in other section of the township to sign their easements if they have not already, and to remind their friends and neighbors with oceanfront property to do so.